

June 9, 2011

The Honorable John M. McHugh
Secretary of the Army
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1400

Dear Secretary McHugh,

I am writing to express my concern about the cost associated with maintaining the Army's General / Flag Officer Quarters (GFOQ). I was concerned when I reviewed a report on expenditures of GFOQs exceeding the \$35,000 statutory Operations and Maintenance (O&M) limit and discovered that the Army has 71 quarters that exceed this limit, and plans to spend \$10 million on them in 2012. By contrast the Air Force reported only one and the Navy reported nine quarters exceeding the statutory limit. At a time when the country must borrow 40 cents on the dollar, these tremendous expenses warrant your personal review.

I recognize that the Army maintains a number of historically registered homes, but I would like you to look into three particular issues that I believe require additional scrutiny. I would appreciate a detailed explanation of the economic benefit of the following:

1. **3501 Granada Blvd., Miami, FL.** It is my understanding that the Army is paying \$66,000 a year to lease this property in addition to the maintenance and upgrade cost, and your 2012 request proposes to spend \$190,000 for this year alone. I was distressed to learn that the occupant is requesting \$300,000 to "adequately size the official entertainment space within the home." U.S. taxpayers should not foot this bill until a full accounting has taken place. My subcommittee has requested a full audit of all expenses for these quarters. I look forward to receiving this information.
2. **39 Richard Wagner Strasse, Stuttgart, Germany.** I would like you to look into the cost of all GFOQs at Stuttgart. These are homes owned by the German government, but U.S. taxpayers are providing a tremendous amount of O&M funds to keep them up. The average O&M cost of these GFOQs, not including the one listed above, is \$254,000 per year, with 2429 Florida Strasse costing \$392,100 in 2012. In particular I would like a full accounting of the funds obligated on the house at 39 Richard Wagner Strasse, since your 2012 request includes \$1.5 million for it in 2012, of which \$1.4 million is for renovations of the grounds.
3. **Chievres, Belgium.** I understand the budget request includes \$10 million to purchase land to build GFOQs to eliminate the need to pay for expensive leases. I would like a progress report on how the search for property is progressing. I trust the Army completed a business case analysis of this course of action that would have

included the cost to build and maintain the new homes. I would like to see this analysis, including the planned size of each home.

Mr. Secretary, I know we have many serious issues facing our nation today, and as the Ranking Member on the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs I applaud your efforts and leadership as you guide the Army through these tough times. I would appreciate your attention to the matters I have raised.

Thank you in advance for addressing these matters,

Sincerely,

Mark Kirk
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Military Construction
and Veterans Affairs